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Form 504 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

REPORT.

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CHIEF OF PARTY:

J.S.Bradford

MEMORANDUM FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SHEETS 1055 B, 1115 and 3961 Lake Pontchartrain, La.

From an examination of the record the plane of reference for H. S. 1055 B is found to be mean low water, and corresponds to 7.9 feet on tide staff at East Rigolets Lighthouse. For H. S. 1115 it is mean tide level, which corresponds to 7.0 feet on tide staff at Milneburg R. R. Wharf. For H. S. 3961 it is mean low water, which corresponds to 2.2 feet on tide staff at N. C. & N. E. Railway Drawbridge, Lake Pontchartrain, and 1.5 feet on tide staff at West Rigolets.

No basis can be found for the statement on H. S. 1115 that there is a difference of lake level of from 12 to 2 feet, as shown from a comparison of the observations at the Milneburg R. R. Wharf in 1871, and those taken at the West Rigolets Lighthouse in 1870. In fact, the 1870 tide staff appears to have been located at East Rigolets Lighthouse instead of West Rigolets Lighthouse. Therefore, the instructions for applying a correction for slope between the two tide stations should be disregarded. However. 0.5 foot should be subtracted from all soundings on H. S. 1115, in order to refer them to mean low water, instead of mean tide level, in conformity with the rule adopted where the range of tide is less than one foot, that mean low water is to be taken as 0.5 foot below mean tide level.

There is practically no periodic tide in Lake Pontchartrain, the rise and fall of the water depending largely upon meteorological conditions.

Chief, Division of Tides and Currents.

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